



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



eNEWS

**There's No Place Like Two Homes:
The Complexities of Separation, Divorce and Co-Parenting
AFCC Regional Training Conference
Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri
November 7-9, 2013**

October 7th the Last Day to Save

Time is running out to take advantage of early registration savings for the AFCC Regional Training Conference. *There's No Place Like Two Homes: The Complexities of Separation, Divorce and Co-parenting*, will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 7-9, 2013, at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. **Discounted early registration rates end October 7, 2013**—be sure that your registration and payment are received on or before then to get the best price on your conference registration.

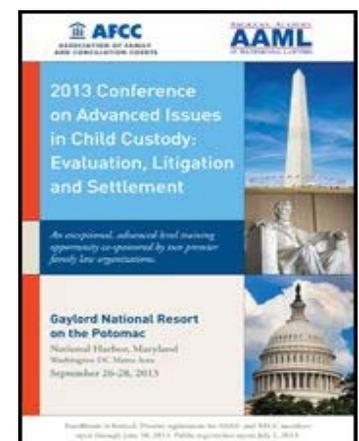
[Register today](#)

Keynote Address with Isolina Ricci, PhD

This year's program focuses on the complex issues related to separation, divorce and co-parenting. AFCC training conferences offer an intensive format featuring three-hour training workshops—time to dig into the topic and sharpen your skills! You won't want to miss the keynote address, *Two Homes: A Time to Ask the Tough Questions*, presented by Isolina Ricci, PhD. Dr. Ricci is the author of the *Mom's*

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
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**Upcoming AFCC
Conferences**



AFCC–AAML Conference
*Advanced Issues in Child
Custody: Evaluation, Litigation
and Settlement*
September 26–28, 2013
Gaylord National Resort

House, Dad's House books for parents and kids. She will share her perspectives from 40+ years as a clinician, mediator and statewide coordinator of court services. Her keynote address will discuss the core challenges facing professionals, parents and children, and will offer a forecast for the future. Read more about Dr. Ricci in this month's Member Profile.

[See the conference program brochure for a full description](#)

Explore Kansas City

The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center is a great location to begin exploring downtown Kansas City. Located within the Hallmark Crown Center, which features more than 85 acres of shops, restaurants and theaters, The Westin is just 10 blocks from the downtown KC Power and Light Entertainment District—with unique shops, restaurants and entertainment venues—and minutes from the renowned Country Club Plaza. Next to the hotel is Liberty Memorial, the country's only WWI Museum. The Link, a climate-controlled glass sky bridge, leads directly to Union Station, the site of prominent traveling art exhibits, the popular family-friendly interactive Science City and the Amtrak Station. Plan your visit at www.visitkc.com.

Member Profile

Isolina Ricci, PhD, San Ramon, California

Early in Isolina Ricci's career working with divorcing families, one of her mentors said, "There are no experts. This isn't even a field yet." More than four decades later, the field has become well-defined and Isolina is one of the leading experts on two homes and parenting after divorce. Much has changed in the forty years she has been working as a clinician, mediator, mediator trainer, and statewide coordinator for court services. Dr. Ricci will present the Keynote Address and a full-day pre-conference institute at the AFCC Regional Training Conference in Kansas City.

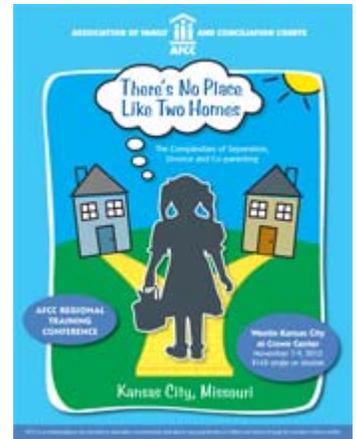
[Read more](#)

AFCC 51st Annual Conference in Toronto Navigating the Waters of Shared Parenting: Guidance from the Harbour May 28-31, 2014 at The Westin Harbour Castle

Workshop Proposal Deadline October 3

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshops to be presented at the 51st Annual Conference. The deadline for submission is Thursday, October 3, 2013. See the [Call for Proposals](#) for a list of topic suggestions and submission guidelines. The conference program will

National Harbor Maryland
Washington, DC Metro Area
[More information](#)



AFCC Regional Training Conference

There's No Place Like Two Homes: The Complexities of Separation, Divorce and Co-parenting

November 7–9, 2013

The Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

[More information](#)

AFCC 51st Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2014

The Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[More information](#)

AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 6-8, 2014

Westin La Cantera Hill
Country Resort
San Antonio, Texas

AFCC 52nd Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2015

Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana

AFCC Regional Training Conference

be online at the end of December and the print version will be mailed in January 2014.

[Submit a proposal](#)

Sponsorship, Exhibit and Advertising Opportunities

Sponsoring the AFCC annual conference, exhibiting onsite or advertising in the conference program brochure are excellent ways to share your products and services with this interdisciplinary community of family law professionals. There are many levels of sponsorship available; support AFCC while promoting your organization. Contact [Erin Sommerfeld](#) to further discuss the options.

[Read more](#)

Ask the Experts

Top Ten Tips for Interviewing Adolescents

By Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Edina, Minnesota

Interviewing adolescents is an important part of many court proceedings; however, this developmental stage is fraught with difficulties. Their brains are not fully developed and the interview is likely taking place at a tumultuous and stressful time in their lives. Mindy Mitnick, Kirsten Lysne, PhD and Kevin McGrath, JD, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, will present a workshop on this topic, *Approaches to Hearing from Adolescents*, Saturday, November 9, at the AFCC Regional Training Conference in Kansas City.

[Read more](#)

Family Court Review Author is a Champion of Change

Each week The White House's [Champions of Change](#) program honors ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things. Recently, 12 individuals were honored for their dedication to the well-being of children of incarcerated parents. Dee Ann Newell, MA, Little Rock, Arkansas, the founder of [Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind](#), was among them. Ms. Newell authored an article, "Risk and Protective Factors for Secondary Girls of Incarcerated Parents," published in the January 2012 special issue of *Family Court Review, Making a Better World for Children of Incarcerated Parents*.

[Members login to read](#)

Three New AFCC Chapters Coming Soon

At present there are 19 AFCC Chapters and one network, with three more chapters in the process of forming. The Oregon Chapter Coordinating Committee held a launch event on September 12. The Maryland Chapter Coordinating Committee will hold a launch event on December 3. The Ohio Chapter Coordinating Committee will hold

November 5-7, 2015
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, Ohio

AFCC 53rd Annual Conference

June 1-4, 2016
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington

AFCC Chapter Annual Conferences

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

Our Families' Faces
October 18, 2013
Toronto Public Library
Toronto, Ontario

[More information](#)

Wisconsin Chapter Annual Conference

Social Media, Electronic Evidence and the Resolution of Family Conflict in the Digital Age

December 6, 2013
Delafield Brewhaus
Delafield, Wisconsin

[More Information](#)

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

Exploring Innovative Paths for Families in Conflict
January 31-February 2, 2014
Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa
Sedona, Arizona

[More Information](#)

California Chapter Annual Conference

Back to the Future: Serving California's Changing Families
February 7-9, 2014

InterContinental Mark Hopkins
San Francisco, California

[More information](#)

Massachusetts Chapter Annual Conference

several launch events in the next few months throughout the state. If you would like more information about these events or would like to get involved, please contact the appropriate member: Oregon – [Kathleen Gillis](#), Maryland – [Ali Doyle](#), and Ohio - [Stephanie Nelson](#).

AFCC Trainings December 2013 in Baltimore

AFCC, in collaboration with University of Baltimore School of Law's Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, is pleased to announce two new training programs. **David Martindale, PhD, ABPP**, will present *The Model Standards and Beyond: Custody Evaluations and Risk Management*, for custody evaluators, lawyers, judges and other professionals who are involved in custody evaluation, December 2-3. **Debra Carter, PhD**, will present *Transforming Family Dynamics: Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination*, for parenting coordinators, mediators, custody evaluators, lawyers, judges, therapists, parent educators and other professionals who work with high-conflict families, December 4-5. Each training program takes place over two full days and is eligible for up to 12 hours continuing education. Discounted rates are available for those registering for both trainings.

[Read more](#)

ACR Spirituality Section Retreat

AFCC is proud to join in supporting the 2014 Spirituality Retreat as a collaborating organization. This is the first time AFCC has joined the Association for Conflict Resolution for this event. The retreat will be held July 17-20, 2014, at the Shambhala Mountain Center in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. Dr. Joan Borysenko, author of more than 20 books on mind-body science, is the featured speaker for the weekend. This event has been held by the ACR Spirituality Section for the past seven years. AFCC members Nan Waller Burnett, Lakewood, Colorado; Christine Coates, Boulder, Colorado; and Leslie Todd, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, are organizers of this year's retreat. Spaces have been set aside for members of AFCC and ACR; there are around 20 spaces remaining for AFCC members.

[Online registration and more information](#)

Mediation Preparation Survey Invitation

Timothy Hedeem, PhD, a professor of conflict management at Kennesaw State University and JoAnne Donner are conducting a survey of mediators and their perceptions of parties' preparedness for mediation via an online survey. They hope that their findings will inform enhanced preparation resources and practices to benefit clients and

March 28, 2014
Regis College
Weston, Massachusetts
[More information](#)

Join AFCC

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[View member benefits](#)

AFCC Chapters

Network and share your interdisciplinary view of family court matters on a local level. There are currently chapters in the following states and provinces:

Australia
Alberta
Arizona
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Florida
Illinois
Indiana
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Ontario
Texas
Washington
Wisconsin
[Add an AFCC Chapter to your membership](#)

AFCC Networks

New Zealand

Ask the Experts

Is there a topic you would like to see covered by an AFCC Ask the Experts piece?

[Email your suggestion](#)

About AFCC eNEWS

mediators. Dr. Hedeem is an AFCC member and serves on the editorial board of the *Family Court Review*. Ms. Donner is a mediator, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, and holds a Master's in Conflict Management.

[Participate in the survey](#)

Family Law in the News

More Grandparents Serving as Primary Caregivers to Children

By Emily Alpert, courtesy of the Los Angeles Times

As American parents have grappled with financial peril and other woes over the last decade, grandparents have stepped in to help.

Grandparents were the main caregivers for more than 3 million children in 2011—a 20% increase from the turn of the millennium, the Pew Research Center reported.

[Read more](#)

Children and Divorce: 'I just want to know why they broke up'

By Joanna Moorhead, courtesy of The Guardian

It was Sunday lunchtime; a lunchtime Olly Lambert now realises was jolly and upbeat in a rather forced, unnatural way. "When it was over, my dad took my sister and me into the garden, and said he and my mum hadn't been getting on very well lately and had decided to separate. I remember bursting into tears and running off to my friend's house just to get away. It felt like a collapse of everything I had known, everything I knew I could rely on..."

[Read more](#)

Readers are welcome to forward this e-newsletter to interested colleagues. All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of AFCC.

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eNEWS

Ask the Experts

Top Ten Tips for Interviewing Adolescents

By Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, Licensed Psychologist

1. Be aware: Adolescent brains are “under construction.”

Brain development continues through adolescence into the early 20's. The prefrontal lobe, which regulates judgment, planning and problem solving abilities, impulse control, organization and priority setting, is the last to complete development. The combination of brain immaturity and hormonal changes often results in decision-making driven by emotions, all-or-none thinking and desire for immediate reward.

2. Expect adolescent reasoning to differ from both children's and from adults'.

Adolescents are typically not concrete and literal in their thinking as are younger children. Nevertheless, they may have difficulty taking others' perspectives—including their parents' and siblings'—because they remain self-focused. Younger teens are less capable than older teens in imagining the consequences of their choices. When making decisions, adolescents differ from adults in considering fewer options, generating and using less information, and determining the importance of the information they do use. Teens often overestimate their ability to handle challenging situations and make informed thoughtful choices.

3. Understand the need for control.

A common theme you may hear from adolescents is “it's my life.” Some adolescents have been told that they can decide the residential arrangements at a fixed age, such as 13. These teens may present what appears to be a “canned” statement about their preference. Be careful about jumping to the conclusion that this statement results from undue parental influence. Some teens rehearse what they want to say in their interview because they feel strongly about the outcome of the parents' dispute. On the other hand, when you hear statements such as “we think,” and “we want,” the adolescent may be aligned with a parent and you will want to assess whose needs are represented by this alignment: the parent's or the teen's. Some adolescents may express a strong preference for a particular parenting schedule, while other adolescents will tell you they want flexibility, meaning they get to decide on an ongoing basis where they reside. Explore with them other decisions they have made to assist in determining whether “flexibility” is a way to avoid structure and accountability. For instance, you might ask whether or not they follow a curfew, and whether they have been in any trouble at school and/or in the community.

4. Avoid pressuring adolescents to state a preference.

Some adolescents actively avoid offering their own wishes. They may deny having a preference for a variety of reasons: they don't want to hurt either parent's feelings, they fear the consequences of expressing a preference, sibling(s) or others have encouraged them to remain neutral, and/or they are protective of a parent who is emotionally dependent on them. Adolescents may be focused on what is “fair” to one or both parents instead of what they really need. Some teens are acutely aware of the financial ramifications of where they live, or what schedule they follow, because a parent has shared information about child support, possession of the family home, and/or the possibility of having to move to more affordable housing.

You may be able to gently assist an adolescent in expressing their own wishes with a statement such as, “If we could just talk about you for a little bit, I wonder what the schedule would look like?”

5. Building rapport is essential.

Interviews should typically begin with a “settling in” phase to accomplish three goals: 1) Convey to the adolescent the interviewer’s sincere interest in listening to them; 2) Inform the interviewer about the teen’s communications style and abilities; and 3) Explain the purpose of the interview. One way to start the interview is to introduce yourself and explain your role, for instance you might say, “My name is ____ and my job is to talk to/listen to family members to help gather information about what would be best for the family.” You may want to ask the teen if they know why they are talking with you. Don’t be surprised if they say they do not, since early on in the interview they may be afraid of making a mistake. Sometimes teens think they know why they are meeting with you, but don’t have it exactly right, thinking something along the lines of, “you’re going to decide where I live.” Unless you are the judge, a simple correction is helpful, such as “I’m going to make some recommendations, but I’m actually not the person who decides. If your mom and dad don’t agree, the person who decides will be the judge.” Depending on your role, you may need to explain the limits of confidentiality before you begin questioning, a statement like, and “What we talk about today is not private. I will be writing a report/talking with your parents telling the judge, etc.” is sufficient.

6. Engage the adolescent’s attention.

Ask the teen questions about what’s important to them, such as sports or other after school activities, music they enjoy or video games they play. This demonstrates your willingness to listen to them, rather than only to gather information to do your job. Be careful about sharing personal information. Some adolescents will appreciate hearing about the sport you played in high school; others will think you are not really interested in them. Depending on your role you may want to ask what they like about, or would like to change about, each parent, their relationships with siblings, their school performance, and any risky behaviors. “Some of the teens I talk with have tried alcohol/marijuana...Tell me about your drinking/smoking...”

7. Invite narrative reports.

Using open-ended questions will encourage the adolescent to provide information from their perspective. When you ask yes/no questions, you will limit the information coming from the teen and maximize the information coming from you: “Tell me about calling 911” vs. “Did you call 911 because you were scared?” Questions that begin with “Tell me about...”, “Tell me more about...” and “Then what happened?” tap into free recall memory, the most accurate source of information. When the teen begins a narrative answer, avoid interrupting them as it can disrupt the memory. You can go back and ask for details after they are done, by following up with something like, “You said your mom was really mad at your sister. Tell me more about that.”

8. Understand their time perspective.

Although adolescents understand the meaning of time concepts such as “last year,” their focus tends to be in the here-and-now and the immediate future. Asking questions about who usually helps them in various ways, with homework for example may only generate answers about this current school year. Similarly, asking them to project into an unknown future, (“what if” questions) may simply produce an “I don’t know”, response, rather than encourage them to think through possible outcomes.

9. Signal what your topic is.

You may know all of the topics you plan to cover, but the teen will do best if you let them know what you are talking about. Statements such as, “Now I want to talk about how you’ve been doing in school” and “I want to talk about something different now” reduce confusion and enhance the teen’s sense of competence in the interview.

10. Pay attention to how you end the interview.

Ending the interview on a respectful note will help reduce the teen’s anxiety about what they said and didn’t say. Thank them for working hard and answering so many questions. Consider an open invitation to tell you more, when you’re wrapping up you could say “I’ve asked a lot of questions today, but I might have missed something important. Is there anything you want to tell me?” Also, consider offering the opportunity to ask any questions they might have, such as “Since I’ve asked you so many questions, it seems only fair that you could ask me something.” By asking this question, you may learn something that has been on the teen’s mind through the whole interview, for instance, “When will this go to court?”

Mindy F. Mitnick is a Licensed Psychologist practicing in Minneapolis. She received a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota. She specializes in work with families in the divorce process and with victims of abuse and their families. Ms. Mitnick has trained professionals throughout the country and abroad in identification and treatment of child abuse, the use of expert witnesses in child abuse and divorce cases, effective interviewing techniques with children, interventions in high-conflict divorce and the impact of psychological trauma. She has been a speaker for AFCC, the National Child Protection Training Center, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National Association of Counsel for Children, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and numerous statewide multidisciplinary training programs. Ms. Mitnick has written and taught extensively about the assessment of child sexual abuse allegations during custody disputes. Ms. Mitnick served as a member of the ABA Criminal Justice Section Task Force on Child Witnesses and as a member of the AFCC Task Force on Court-Involved Therapy. She is serving her second term on the Board of Directors of AFCC.

You can learn more on this topic at a workshop, *Approaches to Hearing from Adolescents* on Saturday, November 9 at the Regional Training Conference in Kansas City. Kirsten Lysne, PhD and Kevin McGrath, JD of Minneapolis, Minnesota will present with Mindy Mitnick. [More information](#).



Member Profile

Isolina Ricci, PhD, San Ramon, California



Early in Isolina Ricci's career working with divorcing families, one of her mentors said, "There are no experts. This isn't even a field yet." More than four decades later, the field has become well-defined and Isolina is one of the leading experts on two homes and parenting after divorce. Much has changed in the forty years she has been working as a clinician, mediator, mediator trainer, and statewide coordinator for court services. In the mid-1970s, many of today's professions, and the concept of shared parenting and co-parenting, simply did not exist. Isolina was instrumental in helping to develop some of these concepts and the language we now use every day. Today, she continues her private practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist and co-parenting counselor, performs consulting work, writes and occasionally presents at conferences and trainings for professionals.

Isolina's formal work with separating and divorcing families began in 1973 when she was completing her master's thesis, "Soul Communities Among Middle Class Americans." Her thesis explored the role of friendship groups in mitigating the stress of major life transitions, and uncovered the alarming stress and hopelessness experienced by some divorcing women. At the insistence of her thesis committee, she designed and implemented an educational program for divorcing parents, incorporating her earlier work with groups with the study findings. The resulting program was one of the first of its kind for single mothers and fathers. Isolina began teaching the program through UCLA Extension on weekends. Remarkably, more than 200 people attended the first session of "Making it Alone."

At a meeting of Parents Without Partners, Isa met AFCC founder and journal editor, Meyer "Mike" Elkin. He subsequently invited Isolina to present to the Los Angeles California Conciliation Court personnel staff, where he was then director. At that time only a few California Family Conciliation Court service programs had begun providing custody counseling, a precursor to the court mediation we know today. She presented her concepts of two homes, father involvement, post-divorce co-parenting, the "business" approach to parent interaction, and how to develop a "parenting agreement" (now called a parenting plan). The agreement included positive terminology such as primary residence, live with, rights and responsibilities (rather than terms like: custody, visitation or broken home). These were new ideas that had not yet taken hold. Meyer insisted that Isolina present at the next AFCC conference and join AFCC, which she did in 1974, making her one of our longest continuous members.

In 1976, Isolina's first article for *Conciliation Courts Review* (now *Family Court Review*) was published. The article was titled "Dispelling the Stereotype of the Broken Home" and presented the two home seven-stage model, custody, psychological factors and the important role of fathers. The concepts presented in the article remain relevant today, as do those in her July 1989 article, "Mediation, Joint Custody, and Parenting Agreements: A Time to Review and Refine." AFCC members can read these articles [here](#) in Volume 12, Number 2 and Volume 27, Number 1, through the *Family Court Review* online archives.

Through her clinical work, training mediators, court personnel and teaching co-parenting classes, Isolina refined her concepts. These core concepts eventually became the classic book, *Mom's House, Dad's*

House. One of Isolina's early mentors was adamant that she document the frameworks she was developing, so she registered her manuscript with the Author's Guild in Los Angeles in 1975. Her book was tentatively titled *Beyond the Broken Home* and was subsequently turned down by a series of publishers, including one who mistakenly said, "It's been done," referring to just one book that had been published on divorce at the time. By 1979, Isolina had signed a contract with McMillian and the first edition of *Mom's House, Dad's House* was published in 1980.

In 1984, Isolina received her PhD from Stanford in interdisciplinary studies: family law, family studies, educational policy and administration. Her doctoral dissertation was titled, "An Exploration of the Parents' Post Divorce Relationship and Child Behavior". The study further convinced her that the field needed a far deeper understanding of what constituted effective dispute resolution, parent to parent communications, parenting, and child development before, during and after separation or divorce. "Parents needed this, but so did we, as professionals." Isolina said.

The California state legislature, persuaded in part by California members of AFCC, passed Title X of the California Family Code in 1984. Previously, legislation had authorized joint custody and established mandatory mediation in each family court for child custody disputes, but with no mandate or provision for mediator training. This new statute provided funding for ongoing training, statistical reporting, research, and a grant program. By 1986, the California Statewide Office of Family Court Services (SOFCS) had been created within the Administrative Office of the Courts to implement Title X and Isolina was its first director. Over the 15 years she was with the AOC, Isolina and her colleagues developed a multidisciplinary continuing education program for court connected service professionals and numerous programs and services for both professionals and litigants, this included work with the Family Law Advisory Committee to develop standards of practice for mediation, evaluation, parent education, and domestic violence. The SOFCS was the first office of its kind. "Throughout my career, I have been blessed with colleagues who were talented and committed to their work and SOFCS was no exception. It was an exciting collaboration between us in SOFCS and with the courts." Isolina said.

A statewide needs assessment of all family courts was conducted in 1986 and 1987. The "Statewide Needs Assessment for California Family Courts," for which Isolina served as principle investigator and author, included input from attorneys, judges, commissioners, court staff and litigants. The results of this study became the basis for planning many of the programs and services that would be created during Isolina's tenure at SCFCS. Isolina wrote an article for *Family Court Review* summarizing the results of the study. That article, along with others documenting the innovation happening in SOFCS can be found in Volume 30 Number 2, April 1992.

The second edition of *Mom's House, Dad's House* was published in 1997. Isolina prepared to update the book by sending a survey to colleagues asking them what they thought should change. As it turned out, they did not want to change anything, but wanted to add to it; as a result, 150 pages of new material were added. Isolina explains, "Co-parenting is a complex challenge. I believe that most parents want to do what is best for their child but they need accurate, easy-to-digest information with practical guides that address everyday issues. Having those tools before and after divorce is as important as having them during the divorce process." A book for parents and children, *Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids*, was published later in 2006. Isolina explains, "The book is intended to be a quiet, gentle book that empowers children not just with information but with encouragement to build skills and a sense of mastery. It is also a support for parents."

Isolina incorporated her most recent tools and upgrades in the *Co-Parenting Toolkit: The Essential Supplement for Mom's House, Dad's House*, which was published last year. The *Toolkit* uses photographs, sayings, and icons to engage several senses at once. It contains around twenty quizzes and a number of guidelines. "As an educator," Isolina explained, "it's important that I offer information constructed with brain and learning research in mind so people can absorb information quickly and find it interesting enough to retain." The *Toolkit* also includes two chapters on effective parenting styles and what children want from their parents.

Isolina left the AOC and the Center for Families, Children, and the Courts in 2001 a year after it combined with SOFCS. She then spent several years working in various family courts which had grants to unify their family courts. Back in her private practice, she joined a collaborative divorce group. She has also presented at AFCC conferences and other professional trainings for different groups around the country.

A native Californian, born and raised in Yolo County, Isolina has family history in the area. Her maternal grandparents were some of the pioneers that settled farm and ranch land in California's Sutter Basin about 100 years ago. Her paternal grandfather moved from San Francisco to Yolo County in 1913 to install the marble in the Yolo County Courthouse. He decided he liked the area and stayed. Years later, Isolina worked in that very court house.

Isolina raised five children while maintaining her practice, authoring the first *MHDH* book and completing her masters and doctoral degrees. Her grown children have all pursued individual interests: finance, law, accounting, the service industry and music. She is also a proud grandmother of 15!

Isolina also loves music, "anything and everything," ranging from Mozart's *Requiem* in Latin to Broadway musicals. This past summer she performed a set of Broadway hits from the 40s and 50s with a local group. Isolina comes from a sports-minded family, and follows her teams, the San Francisco Giants and her alma mater, Stanford (football), religiously.

AFCC is pleased that Isolina will presenting at the AFCC Regional Training Conference, There's No Place Like Two Homes: The Complexities of Separation, Divorce and Co-Parenting, on November 8, in Kansas City. Thursday, November 7, she will present a full day pre-conference institute, Upgrading the Two-Home Tool Kit: It's More than Just Nuts and Bolts. The institute will provide practitioners with easy-to-use upgrades of strategies, structures and frameworks along with fresh perspectives and expectations for helping parents develop and maintain reasonable parenting agreements and two healthy homes. Friday, November 8, Isolina will present the Keynote Address, Two Homes: A Time to Ask the Tough Questions. The keynote will address some of the core challenges professionals, parents and children face today and will offer a forecast for the future. We hope you can join us; you won't want to miss it!

[More information about the AFCC Regional Training Conference](#)
[More information about Isolina, her books, and Custody & CoParenting Solutions](#)